

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

CENTER FOR FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

BUDGET ACTIVITY 8: CENTER FOR FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

STRATEGIC GOAL/OBJECTIVE	ACTUAL 2002	ESTIMATE 2003	ESTIMATE 2004
Strategic Goal FC: Promote participation of faith-based and community organizations.			
FTE			
Headquarters	4	10	10
Field	0	0	0
Subtotal	4	10	10
S&E Cost (Dollars in Thousands)			
Personal Services	\$386	\$992	\$1,019
Travel	54	154	162
Transportation of Things	0	0	0
Rent, Communications & Utilities	0	0	0
Printing	10	0	0
Other Services	1,394	1,173	1,512
Supplies	4	33	33
Subtotal	1,848	2,352	2,726

EXPLANATION OF PERFORMANCE

The Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives proposes \$2.726 million in S&E funding to support Strategic Goal FC: Promote participation of faith-based and community organizations.

HUD is the Federal agency responsible for national policy and programs that address America's housing and community development needs. To help accomplish HUD's mission, nonprofit organizations, including those that are faith-based, have sought and successfully used HUD programs since the mid-1970s. Throughout the last 25 years, the number of grants and the amount of funds awarded to non-profits and faith-based organizations have increased steadily. Despite these successes, however, there have been challenges—particularly for smaller, grassroots groups. These involved citizens—spiritual leaders, business groups, and nonprofit organizations—constitute community organizations that are not widely known, but whose expertise we cannot afford to ignore.

The Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives plays a cross-cutting role in helping HUD accomplish its mission to "promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity, and a suitable living environment free from discrimination." Faith- and community-based organizations, large and small, play a significant role in achieving this mission. To that end, HUD and CFBCI will build upon prior successes to expand program participation by these front-line specialists.

Internal and external collaboration are essential components of any program improvement strategy. The kinds of issues faced by persons living in distressed or underserved communities require a concerted effort in order to solve their pressing needs. The following are several key factors in that approach:

Intra-Departmental Outreach. CFBCI will partner with HUD program offices to establish mutual goals and identify opportunities to assist program areas in carrying out their strategic plans and objectives, with particular regard to their faith-based and community partnerships.

Train Grant Review Panels. Grant review panels should gain a greater understanding of the viability of non-traditional organizations—particularly faith-based and community organizations—and their ability to compete on an equal basis for Federal funds. CFBCI should offer staff to train grant review panels and to help level the playing field for non-traditional recipient organizations.

External Factors. Many faith-based and community organizations participate in HUD programs through funds distributed to local governments and public housing authorities via block grants, contract renewals and vouchers. These grants represent a significant portion of HUD's program dollars, and thus, are subject to a myriad of external factors affecting program improvement and inter-agency coordination.

Coordination with other Federal agencies. Faith-based and community organizations address some of our nation's most intractable pathologies—including homelessness, substance abuse, violence, chronic unemployment. HUD's CFBCI will partner with the Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the Departments of Education, Justice, Labor, Health and Human Services, and the Corporation for National Community Service to launch pilot and demonstration projects that bring the program and other resources of these agencies together to serve faith-based and community organizations.

HUD's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is playing a coordinating role in promoting fair access to Federal resources. The Department also needs to take steps to ensure that grassroots organizations can participate in our own programs. By the end of fiscal year 2003, HUD plans to complete four milestones that will make HUD and other Federal programs more accessible to faith-based and community organizations:

Provide education and training for faith-based and community organizations. Through national, regional, field and state conferences, HUD/web broadcasts, etc., our goal is to reach more than 20,000 representatives from faith-based and community organizations. Training will include, but is not limited to, the topics of capacity building, resource development strategies, the importance of generating partnerships, and strategic planning.

Establish a resource center and inter-agency website for the Faith-Based and Community Initiative.

Identify and eliminate requirements not contained in statutes or regulations. Faith-based and community organizations are subject to a number of requirements that are neither contained in statutes nor in HUD regulations. Often, these additional requirements are contained in handbooks, added to the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), extracted from HUD's Office of General Counsel (OGC) legal memoranda and opinions, or are left to the discretion of the program offices. Additionally, CFBCI will partner with HUD OGC to eliminate requirements that are contained in HUD regulations, but that have no genesis in the authorizing statute.

Identify and eliminate bureaucratic barriers that prohibit or discourage participation by faith-based and religious organizations. CFBCI will work with HUD OGC to eliminate the "primarily religious organization" regulatory language that addresses organizational nature, type or origin, in favor of consistent regulation of activities, by selecting applicants who demonstrate the capability to deliver an authorized service in compliance with laws and regulations, regardless of its religious affiliation. This would bring HUD into compliance with the most recent case law and Department of Justice legal memoranda and opinion.

One measure of HUD's success in making programs accessible to faith-based and grassroots community organizations is the number of grant applications these groups submit to HUD. The number of grant applications submitted each year represents the effective demand for Federal resources by grassroots organizations, as well as a threshold level of capacity. The organizations that submit applications that are qualified and competitive enough to merit grant awards meet a higher threshold of capacity. During FY 2004, HUD intends to establish a baseline number of applications submitted by faith- and community-based grantees, and the number of grants awarded to such qualified grantees and in force.

HUD's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is also playing a coordinating role in developing intra-agency taskforces to identify programs within the Department with significant growth opportunity for faith- and community-based participation. Successful accomplishment of CFBCI's goal of helping to effectively address the myriad social problems faced by individuals and families in distressed communities will also require partnerships with other Federal

agencies. The Secretary and program Assistant Secretaries have identified several priority issues that will make HUD more effective in the way it serves its constituents. By the end of fiscal year 2003, HUD will undertake several projects that will make HUD and other Federal programs more accessible to grassroots organizations, which include faith-based and community organizations. They include, but are not limited to the following:

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) - expand the reach of the FSS program by utilizing faith-based and community organizations.

Colonias - Through Federal partnerships and collaboration with faith-based and community organizations in these and other rural regions, CFBCI and HUD will work to more effectively deliver HUD programs and services.

Homelessness - CFBCI will participate in the Interagency Homeless Council and will partner with the SNAPS office to develop strategies that will increase the involvement of faith-based and community organizations in the Continuum of Care process.